



MINUTES

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING (BY TELECONFERENCE)

1. Call to Order.

The Board of Trustees of the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust convened by teleconference with President Trent Lewis presiding at 8:35 AM on Thursday November 12, 2020.

2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum.

The attendance of the Trustees was taken. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Trustees in Attendance:

Trent Lewis, Place 7, President
Shirley Haisler, Place 1
Bob Harpool, Place 5

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Leslie Maynard, Place 3
Lyle Dresher, Place 9

Trustees Absent:

Lissa Shepard, Place 2
Thomas E. Taylor, Place 8

Staff & Advisors of Upper Trinity Regional Water District in Attendance:

Larry N. Patterson
Blake Alldredge

Jason Pierce
Rae Langston

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Pledge: All

Invocation: Trent Lewis

4. Discuss Appointment and Reappointment of Trustees.

A. Consider reappointment of Trustee for Place 8 (Tom Taylor) on the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Taylor appreciates his time serving on the Board but has expressed that he does not wish to be re-appointed. He will remain on the Trust until a replacement is appointed.

B. Discuss the Place 4 (Doug Franklin) vacancy and take appropriate action.

Mr. Russ McNamer has expressed interest in serving on the Board and filling the unexpired term of Place 4 (May 2021). Place 4 is an UTRWD appointment. Mr. McNamer is a resident of Flower Mound and serves on the Flower Mound Environmental Conservation Committee. He has extensive background serving on and working for non-profit organizations. Staff recommends Mr. McNamer to the UT Board in Place 4 to be brought to the December UTRWD Board of Directors Meeting. **Lyle Dresher made a motion to recommend to the UTRWD Board that Mr. McNamer be appointed to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Seconded by Thomas Muir.** The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

5. Conduct Oath of Office for Place 8.

No action taken at this time.

6. Adopt minutes of August 13, 2020 Trust Board Meeting.

Leslie Maynard made a motion to approve Minutes of February 13, 2020, as presented. Seconded by Thomas Muir. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

7. Receive Report from Staff concerning on-going activities of the Trust.

Jason Pierce briefs the Board:

- Membership into the Land Trust Alliance has been approved.
- The UTCT Budget for FY21 was approved by the UTRWD Board of Directors at its September 2020 meeting.
- It would be appropriate to soon create Committee Assignments – in particular, the Acquisition Committee in anticipation of conservation easement acquisition opportunities in the future.
- Congratulations to Ms. Lissa Shepherd for her appointment as a Board Member on the newly created Region C Flood Management Group, as part of the new Statewide Flood Planning efforts administered by the Texas Water Development Board.

Mr. Patterson briefs the Board on Lake Ralph Hall matters:

- The Lake Ralph Hall Project is making great progress. The Texas Water Development Board has authorized funds of over \$513,000,000 for design and construction. The new bridges and roadways are under design. The contract for the construction of the Leon Hulse Dam is expected to be awarded in March 2021.

- Staff continues to coordinate with the City of Ladonia to maintain access to the Fossil Park, then to relocate it further upstream when construction of the new State Highway 34 bridge begins.
 - Blake Alldredge placed six new watershed protection signs for the North Sulphur River where roadways cross tributaries that flow into the river.
 - A Construction Manager for Lake Ralph Hall has been appointed from within the District.
8. Consider establishing a grant program to assist cities, utilities and landowners in implementing projects that support the tenets of the Denton County Greenbelt Plan, including reviewing the updated application and scoring guideline and take appropriate action.

In support of the Denton County Greenbelt Plan, Staff is proposing to establish a grant program to help implement certain types of projects, such as riparian restoration, green stormwater infrastructure and educational resources. The proposed grant program discussion is a continuation from the previous meeting. The grant program would be administered by the Trust. Project funding was provided in the current budget and would be restricted to Denton County watersheds and to entities that have adopted the Greenbelt Plan. Eligible entities can include municipalities, utilities, landowners and non-profit organizations.

Blake Alldredge explained that the grant application was updated since the previous meeting to provide a quick overview of the grant program on the first page, as well as combined two questions into one and created a scoring guideline to use when evaluating applications. Staff recommends approval.

Thomas Muir makes a motion to approve establishing the grant program as outlined by Staff. Seconded by Lyle Dresher. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

9. Discuss potential acquisition of conservation easement and take appropriate action.

The Trust has an opportunity for a potential acquisition of a conservation easement on 7 acres of land located near FM 2181 and FM 2499 within the Lewisville Lake watershed. The Landowner, Ms. Sharon Mays, was introduced to the Trust by Bob Hart and is interested in preserving and protecting the trees and natural habitat on her property. Staff recommends moving forward with further discussion with Ms. Mays, to have a conservation easement for this property and see how it aligns with the Trust. Vice President Muir agreed to participate in a future meeting with Ms. Mays.

Thomas Muir made a motion to approve moving forward with discussion. Trent Lewis seconded. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

10. Discuss progress concerning activities and goals in Trust's Annual Work Program Guidelines.

- A. Presentation to the Flower Mound Environmental Conservation Commission.

On September 1, Blake Alldredge and Vice President Thomas Muir presented to the Town of Flower Mound Environmental Conservation Commission. The Commission helps to

guide the Town staff on environmental issues within the Town, including the management of the Cross Timbers Conservation Development District in the western part of the Town. The presentation was warmly received, and the members of the Commission wished to work more closely with the Trust, especially as it relates to land preservation and conservation easements.

Blake Alldredge explained that it was during this meeting that he and Vice President Muir mentioned that the Trust Board has a vacancy. Soon after, Mr. Russ McNamer contacted Jason and Blake to express his interest in joining the Board.

B. Watershed Partners Breakfast Planning.

The Trust hosts the Watershed Partners Breakfast every two years, and this year the Trust is scheduled to host the Breakfast. Due to the ongoing pandemic, it is anticipated that this event will be held online. We would like to plan this for January 27th and plan a live, on-line interactive event. Staff suggests inviting Dr. Fouad Jaber, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Dallas, and Dr. Samuel Atkinson, University of North Texas as guest speakers to discuss their watershed-related projects in Denton County. It is anticipated that with the technical content in their presentations that Continuing Education Units can be attained for those that attend. Staff plans to announce the “Denton County Watershed Improvement Grant Program” during the Breakfast. With moving this online, our budget allows us to offer a care package for the first 50-100 that register as additional incentive.

Thomas Muir expressed he has a prior engagement for this date. Trustees agreed with the proposed date and plan suggested by Staff.

11. Review agenda items, activities and announcements for future Board meetings.

Places 1, 4 and 5 appointments to go before the UTRWD Board at the December 3rd meeting.

12. Confirm date, time and location of next meeting.

The Trust will plan to meet January 14, 2021. An update of the Watershed Partners Breakfast will be given at this time.

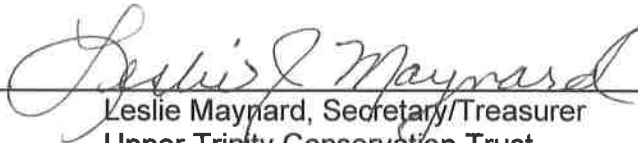
13. Visitor Comments.

None.

14. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Leslie Maynard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:35AM, Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all Yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

Recorded By: 
Rae Langston, Assistant Secretary

Certified By: 
Leslie Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust